THE

# Theatrical Observer:

AND

## Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 529 Monday, Aug. 4, 1823 Price 1d.

## ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

On Saturday evening there was a good house to see *Presumption, Love among the Roses,* and *Amateurs and Actors.*—The whole performances were well received.

## HAY-MARKET.

A two-act piece, (called in the bills "a new Farce,") under the style and title of "*Spanish Bonds; or, Wars in Wedlock,*" was produced here on Saturday. We suppose our readers expect that we should give them some account of the story, (*story!*) for it is most likely they will never have an opportunity of seeing and enjoying it on the Stage. We shall make but an awkward job of it, but let us see—where did it begin?—oh!—Why—Liston, (a *Don* something, for the scene is in Spain) is discovered snarling at his rib, Mrs. Jones, (of course a *Donna* something) over a square table, and she spits at him. The whole object of the writer indeed, seemed to be to exhibit a regular cat-and-dog couple, who are eternally spitting and scratching at each other, and in this he was tolerably successful to be sure, but unluckily there appeared to be a good many happy dogs present, who had the felicity of wearing the bonds of wedlock, and this *fac simile* of their enviable lots wanted variety, and consequently attraction for them—so they took it in dudgeon. But let us proceed with our story. Well—Liston has a daughter, (Mrs. Chatterley) in love with *Don Felix,* (Vining) who is in love with her; and they are going to be married, but *Felix* loses a miniature of himself, intended for her, which is found by an old fool of a rival, (W. West) who is encouraged by Mrs. Jones, in opposition to her spouse, and this is made use of to charge him with having another wife—the oddest way of proving a man guilty of bigamy we ever heard of. Mrs. Orger, a niece of Mrs. C. Jones, is also brought forward by West to claim Vining, as her husband, but it happens that her lord and master, is no other than our respected friend, Harley, who officiates as *wally de-sham,* to *Don Felix,* and on this discovery, we believe, (for we are speaking entirely out of book, as the greatest part of the last act passed in dumb show) matters are settled to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned, except the people who paid their money to see the fun. We never saw an audience in better temper at the first going off, but matters soon began to wear a mortal queer aspect. After en-

during several long scenes, containing nothing but dull dialogue, without a single situation, or the smallest point of interest, (we are convinced we are serving the interests of the house in expressing our opinion candidly) their patience gave way, and they were so unpolite as to express their estimation of "*Spanish Bonds*," by sundry hisses, groans, hootings, whistlings, with cries of 'stuff,'—'nonsense'—'shame'—'manager'—'withdraw'—'off, off'—&c. As we have said, scarcely a word could be heard of the last act; and when LISTON came out to announce the piece for repetition, he was unable to get a hearing. We have said enough probably to show that this piece deserved the fate it met with. We must confess we were deceived in the thing altogether: we expected a good deal of humor—some allusions to passing events—plenty of good situations, with a reasonable proportion of equivoque—lots of puns, &c. &c. but instead of this, we had something like two odd acts of a larger piece served up to us, without the smallest trait of novelty or interest. We supply a specimen of the dialogue

"LISTON—My dear, you're as obstinate as Balaam's ass.

Mrs. JONES—Was there ever such brutality!

LISTON—The only difference between you is, that the ass was wise as well as obstinate—but you've got all his obstinacy without his wisdom." &c.

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HARLEY—A wife, Sir, is a regular *combustible!*

VINING—Then she must be a disagreeable inmate—the sooner she *goes off* the better.

HARLEY—Yes, Sir, but she always *goes off* with an *explosion*, which is generally occasioned by *a spark*, that'll give you a pain in your head, [*touching his forehead*]" &c.

If this will help our readers to a knowledge of the author, it is well; for we have no other means of discovering him. The performers, one and all, did their best to give value and currency to "*Spanish Bonds*," but they were not ratified by the public, and the sooner they are out of the market the better.

Previous to the above Piece, *The Barber of Seville* was acted, in which Miss PATON, as *Rosina*, sang delightfully.

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Mr. C. MATHEWS, has arrived at his cottage, Highgate, from his tour in America.

SURREY THEATRE.—This favorite place of amusement re-opens on Monday the 11th inst. under a new management; and from what we can ascertain, is likely to prove highly successful.—The House has been much improved and brilliantly decorated, and a very superior Company is already engaged.

VAUXHALL will this Evening present another Grand Fete.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

THE great encouragement this Publication has met with for a period of nearly two years, has occasioned attempts to be made to rival it by imitations of form and style. It is, therefore, respectfully suggested to our friends to be careful, in going to the Theatre, not to be imposed on by having another Paper thrust into their hands as "THE THEATRICAL OBSERVER."

*Printed by E. THOMAS, Denmark Court, Exeter 'Change, Strand*

# Theatre Royal, Hay-Market.

This Evening will be performed, a Comic Sketch in 1 Act, call'd

# BLUE DEVILS.

Megrim, Mr TERRY,
Bailiff, Mr EBSWORTH, James, Mr W. WEST,
Demison, Mr WILLIAMS,
Annette, *(first time)* Miss LOVE,

After which, [20th time] a new Comedy in 3 acts, called

# Sweethearts & Wives

*With New Music, Scenes, and Dresses.*
*The Music by Messrs. Whitaker, Nathan, T. Cooke, & Perry.*

Admiral Franklin, Mr. TERRY,
Charles Franklin, Mr. VINING,
Sanford, Mr DAVIS, Curtis, Mr WILLIAMS,
Billy Lackaday, Mr. LISTON,
Laura, Madame VESTRIS,
Eugenia, Miss CHESTER, Susan, Mrs. GARRICK,
Mrs. Bell, Mrs C. JONES,

To conclude with the Farce of

# A Roland for an Oliver.

Sir Mark Chase, Mr WILLIAMS,
Fixture, Mr HAMMOND,
Alfred Highflyer, Mr VINING,
Mr Selborne, Mr HORREBOW,
Gamekeeper, Mr Latham, Groom, Mr Ebsworth,
*Gamekeepers and Servants.*
Mrs Selborne, Mrs GARRICK,
Maria Darlington, Madame VESTRIS,
Mrs Fixture, Mrs C. JONES,

To-morrow, Match-Making, Sweethearts & Wives, & Family Jars.

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# Theatre Royal English Opera House.

This Evening will be performed, (7th time) a new Romance, with new Music, Scenes, Dresses, and Decorations, called

# Presumption.

De Lacey, *a banished Gentleman*, Mr ROWBOTHAM,
Felix De Lacey, *(his son)* Mr PEARMAN,
Frankenstein, Mr WALLACK.
Clerval, Mr J. BLAND, Fritz, Mr KEELEY,
Hammerpan, Mr SALTER, Tauskin, Mr SHIELD,
Gypsey, Mr. H. PHILLIPS,
William, *Master Boden*, Guide, *Mr R. Phillips.*
(———) Mr. T. P. COOKE,
Elizabeth, [*Sister of Frankenstein*] Mrs AUSTIN,
Agatha de Lacey. Miss L. DANCE,
Madame Ninon, [*Wife of Fritz*] Mrs J. WEIPPERT,
Safie, [*an Arabian Girl*] Miss HOLDAWAY,

After which, the Musical Entertainment of

# SHARP and FLAT.

Sir Peter Probable, Mr W. BENNETT,
Captain Belrose, Mr BROADHURST,
Solomon Sharpwit, Mr W. CHAPMAN,
Nikey, Mr KEELEY,
Brisk, Mr SALTER, James, Mr LODGE,
Rosabel, Miss HOLDAWAY,
Jenny, Mrs J. WAIPPERT,

To conclude with, (4th time this Season) the Melo Drama of

# The Miller's Maid.

The Miller, Mr BARTLEY, George, Mr BAKER,
Giles, Mr RAYNER,
Matty Marvellous, Mr W. BROWN,
Old Granger, Mr ROWBOTHAM,
James, Mr H. PHILLIPS, Gamekeeper, Mr SALTER,
Dame, Mrs GROVE,
Phœbe, (*the Miller's Maid*) Miss KELLY.

To-morrow, The Knight of Snowdoun, with The Fair Gabrielle.